

XXVII. Description of the Vespertilio plicatus. By Francis Buchannan, M.D. A.L.S.

Read November 5, 1799.

VESPERTILIO PLICATUS.

Section F of Ker's Translation of Gmelin's Syst. Nat.

Tailed; the nostrils round, simple perforations: the upper lip very large, and folded: the ears as large as the head, folded, and half

pendulous.

Inhabits old houses at Puttahaut in Bengal.

FROM its teeth this bat can only be miftaken for the Cephalotes: but the defcription of that fpecies will not apply to this. From the point of the nofe to the root of the tail 3 inches: from the extremity of one wing to that of the other 12 inches. The wings, and naked parts of the body, are foot-coloured. The hair is mixed with afh-colour, and is paler below than on the back. The bead is large, thick at the fhoulders, and tapers gradually to the fnout; which is blunt, terminates in a heart-fhaped margin, and projects far beyond the lower jaw. It is moftly naked; but has feveral long, erect briftles. The noftrils are fmall circular holes, remote from each other, and placed under the margin of the fnout.

262 Dr. BUCHANNAN's Description of the Vespertilio plicatus. The upper lip at the fides hangs over the under jaw, and at each fide is deeply wrinkled with feven or eight vertical folds. The ears are large, blunt, wrinkled, and somewhat pendulous. From being bent in feveral folds, they at first fight appear to be thick and

flefhy. They approach very near at their infertion on the brow, and are naked, except on a fharp finus towards the hinder part of the head. On their edge near the tips are five or fix fmall warts. There are no internal auricles. The eyes are in two fmall flits above the angles of the mouth, and are almost covered by the ears. There are two firong tu/ks in each jaw. In the upper jaw there are two conical fharp fore-teeth, half as long as the tusks. Below, in place of these, there are only two fmall points, fcarcely projecting from the gums. The grinders are a little removed from the tusks, and are in each fide of each jaw five or fix in number. In

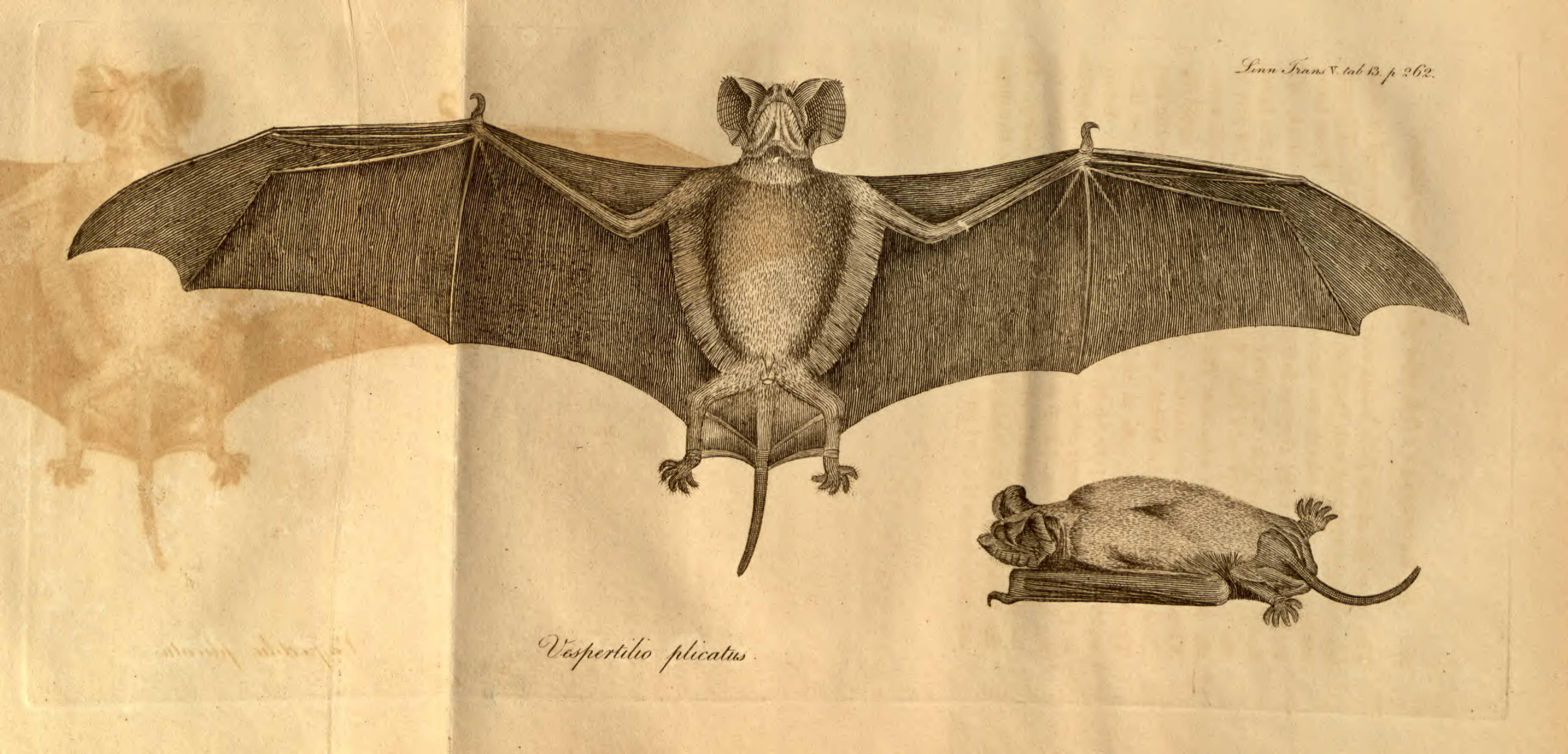
the lower jaw each grinder has two fharp points; in the upper jaw each, except the first pair, has three points.

The neck is very fhort, and fo covered with hair as to be fearcely obfervable. The *fhoulders* are high, and round, with a deep cavity between them. The body, at the fhoulders, is much wider than at the haunches. The buttocks are bare. The tail is naked, round, and blunt: it is turned up at the end. A ftrong hocked class in place of the thumb. No second

A ftrong hooked *claw* in place of the thumb. No carpus nor metacarpus. Four long *fingers* ferve to diftend the membrane of the wing. The *bind-feet* have five diftinct toes, with fmall fharp claws. The *membrane* of the *wings* joins the hinder legs and tail, but it is not nearly fo long as the latter. A broad *hairy lift* furrounds all round the body, and covers the bottom of the membrane.

The drawing and description was taken from a male. I could observe no nipples.

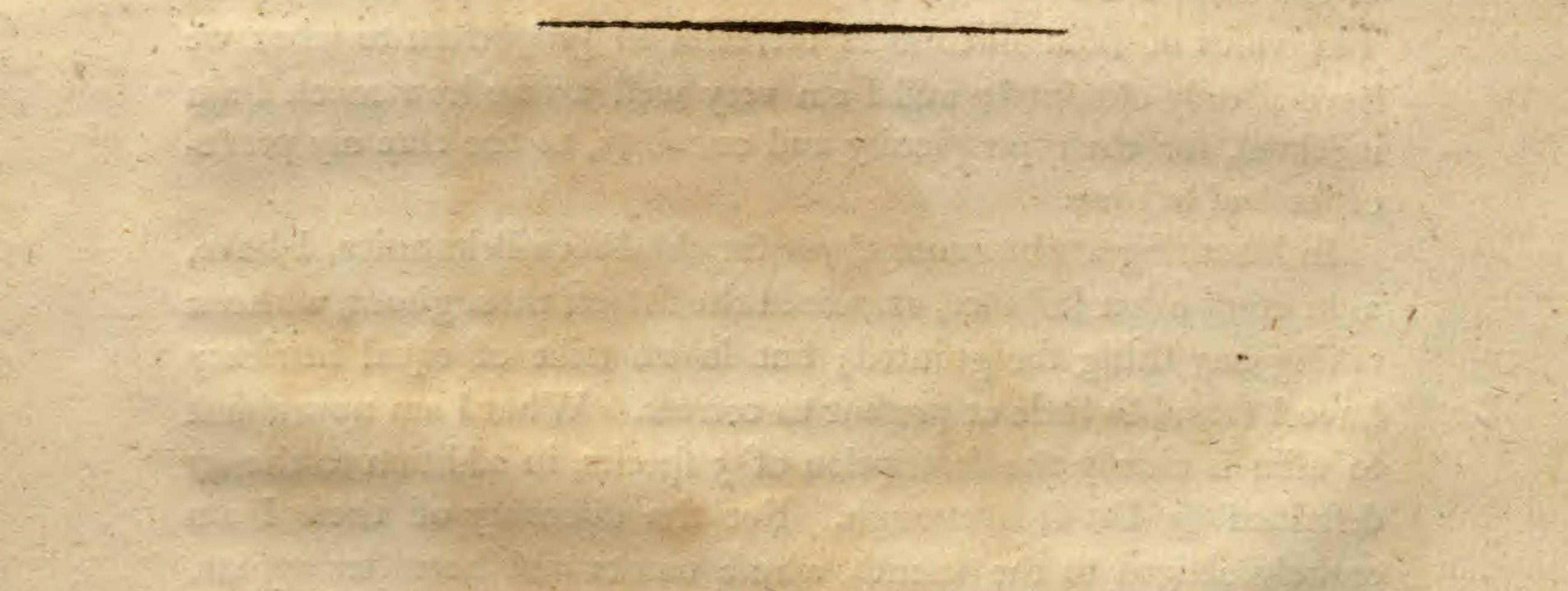
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The natives of Bengal have only two names for all the fpecies of bats found in their country. The large bats, which neftle on trees, and live chiefly on fruit, they call Bādŭr: those which, like the one above defcribed, inhabit caverns and old buildings, and live chiefly on infects, they call Chamchēēka.

TAB. XIII. represents the Vespertilio plicatus of its natural fize.



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